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Items 33 and 37 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 18 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to my letter of 15 May 1992 under cover of which I transmitted to you, inter alia, the draft reports of the five working groups of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) to be presented to Codesa's second plenary session scheduled for 15 and 16 May 1992 (see A/47/215). You will recall that consensus had been reached on all the reports with the exception of that of Working Group II.

Despite intense efforts, the parties to Codesa were unable to resolve their differences in Working Group II. Since the issues addressed by the five working groups are interrelated, it was decided that, as a consequence of the disagreement in Working Group II, none of the reports would be tabled at Codesa 2.

Following a substantive meeting between State President de Klerk and Mr. Mandela, President of the African National Congress, during the evening of 15 May and taking account of the remarkable progress made since the first plenary session of Codesa in December 1991, the parties to Codesa 2 decided to entrust its Management Committee with the primary responsibility for moving the process ahead in the immediate future. Codesa, inter alia, mandated the Management Committee to:

* A/47/50.

suspend the work of the working groups and resolve all outstanding matters with which they were dealing;

examine all Working Group agreements with a view to establishing what work could be done in order to facilitate speedy implementation as soon as all amendments had been adopted;

call a Codesa Plenary as a matter of urgency to adopt all agreements and to receive a report on all matters which had been assigned to it by Codesa 2 having regard to the scheduled adjournment of the current session of Parliament. (In effect this means that Codesa will meet again by the end of June 1992.);

constitute a mechanism which would draft all the legislation required as a result of agreements reached at Codesa.

Of fundamental importance is that the Codesa negotiating process remains on course. The streamlined procedure now devised offers a workable way forward for the resolution of existing differences and enjoys the confidence of all parties to Codesa.

It would be appreciated if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 33 and 37 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative